

Page 3, between lines 13 and 14, insert the heading [ DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF

AS THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Before claim 1, between lines 2 and 3, insert [ --I claim:--

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Please substitute claims 1-9 with amended claims 1-9 as shown below in "clean sheet" format. A marked-up version of the amended claims is attached.

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1. (Amended) A soil compaction device comprising:
    - a soil contact plate;
    - an oscillator that acts on the soil contact plate, has at least two eccentric masses that rotate in opposite directions whose phase relationship can be adjusted relative to one another by means of a positioning unit; and
    - at least one moving operator element to control the positioning unit ;wherein a sensor unit is provided to determine the position of the operator element and to produce a signal to control the positioning unit.
  2. (Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein the operator element and the sensor unit are attached to a guide handle of the soil compaction device.
  3. (Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein the sensor unit has at least one capacitive, inductive or resistive sensor.
  4. (Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein the sensor unit has at least one Hall sensor or a reed contact as well as a transmitting element attached to the operator element.
  5. (Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein the sensor unit has at least one proximity switch.
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